

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

February 14, 2017

The Honorable Reince Priebus
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Priebus:

News reports have recounted on February 11, 2017, the President and the Prime Minister of Japan discussed North Korea's launch of an intermediate-range ballistic missile while at dinner at the Mar-a-Lago resort's public dining area. Accounts and photographs from other diners seem to indicate these communications occurred in the presence of other guests. Reportedly, documents were provided by what appeared to be White House staff for the President's review while the dinner proceeded. During this time, according to reports, the President made telephone calls to staff in Washington, D.C. These reports and social media accounts have suggested White House staff used their own cell phones to provide illumination for reviewing documents.¹ Separately, one Mar-a-Lago guest posted to his Facebook page a photograph with a man described to be the holder of the "nuclear football."²

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said no classified information was present in the Mar-a-Lago dining room, as the President was briefed in a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) both before and after the dinner.³ Nevertheless, discussions with foreign leaders regarding international missile tests, and documents used to support those discussions, are presumptively sensitive. While the President is always on duty, and cannot dictate the timing of when he needs to receive sensitive information about urgent matters, we hope the White House will cooperate in providing the Committee with additional information.

¹ Kevin Liptak, *At Mar-a-Lago, Trump tackles crisis at close range*, CNN POLITICS (Feb. 13, 2017), available at <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/12/politics/trump-shinzo-abe-mar-a-lago-north-korea>; David Farenthold, *Trump turns Mar-a-Lago Club terrace into open-air situation room*, WASH. POST (Feb. 13, 2017), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-turns-mar-a-lago-club-terrace-into-open-air-situation-room/2017/02/13/c5525096-f20d-11e6-a9b0-ecee7ce475fc_story.html; and Christopher Wilson, *Photos from Mar-a-Lago guest reportedly show Trump responding to North Korea launch*, YAHOO NEWS (Feb. 13, 2017), available at <https://www.yahoo.com/news/photos-from-mar-a-lago-guest-reportedly-show-trump-responding-to-north-korea-tests-173344411.html>.

² Mallory Shelbourne, *Mar-a-Lago guest takes picture with nuclear 'football' briefcase*, THE HILL (Feb. 13, 2017), available at <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/319211-mar-a-lago-guest-posts-pics-with-nuclear-football-carrier>.

³ See Jordan Fabian, *White House: No classified information at Trump-Abe dinner*, THE HILL (Feb. 13, 2017), available at <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/319339-white-house-no-classified-information-at-trump-abe-dinner>.

Please provide the following information to the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than February 28, 2017:

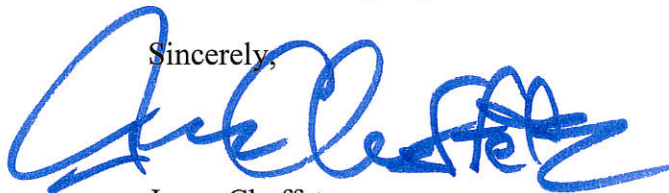
1. An explanation of whether proper security protocols were followed with regard to discussions at Mar-a-Lago, as well as who set those protocols;
2. Identify the documents reviewed at the dinner table and other common areas at Mar-a-Lago, and whether any of those documents were classified or otherwise sensitive, and if so, what classification level and handling caveats applied;
3. An explanation of whether any classified information was discussed in common areas at Mar-a-Lago, including while any individuals were speaking or recording on cellular telephones;
4. An explanation about whether and how the guests, employees, and residents at Mar-a-Lago are vetted in order to ensure that they are not foreign agents or spies on behalf of a foreign government; and
5. In addition to the SCIF at Mar-a-Lago, what other security protocols are in place to protect sensitive information at Mar-a-Lago.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pursuant to House Rule X, the Committee has authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time."

When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please have your staff contact the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

Enclosure